

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-30 were pending. Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-16, and 19-30 were rejected. Claims 2-4, 7, and 17-18 were objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent forms incorporating limitations of their base and intervening claims.

In this response, claims 2, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, and 26-30 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 11-13, 15-16, 18, 20, 22-23, and 25 have been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claim, in full, clear, concise, and exact terms, the subject matter which Applicant regards as his invention. No new matter has been added.

Specifically, independent claims 1, 9, and 13 have been amended to include an allowable subject matter of claim 2. Independent claims 20 and 23 have been amended to include an allowable subject matter of claim 17. Applicant also amended other amended claims to overcome other rejections such as 35 U.S.C. 101 rejections, etc.

While Applicant does not concede that the Examiner's position is correct on the merits, Applicant has sought to obtain the claims that were objected to. Applicant hereby reserves the right to pursue the canceled claims in the subsequent prosecution of the present application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call/email the undersigned attorney.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any shortage of fees in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN

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